

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence delivered the following remarks at the House Republican leadership press conference today:

"I was home in Indiana yesterday - our state was rocked with the news that one of our leading employers, Eli Lilly and Company, was going lay off more than 5,000 employees. Projections include upwards to 2,000 Hoosiers will lose their jobs by the year 2011. When I was in Evansville, Indiana, just a few weeks ago in August, we received word that the Whirlpool plant, a plant that had been there for more than half of a century, was closing permanently, ending 1,100 jobs from Southwestern Indiana.

"Our economy is struggling, families are hurting. And yet, this Congress is poised to demand an apology from a man who has already apologized. It's a disappointment to millions of Americans. Last week the Speaker of the House said, 'It's time to talk about health care.' I say Speaker Pelosi was half right. The American people want less politics and more jobs. They want this Congress to put aside petty, partisan politics. To put aside this plan for a government takeover of health care and focus on what we know has always worked to get this economy moving again. That's fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C. and immediate tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms.

"Less politics, more jobs. That's what Republicans will continue to fight for."